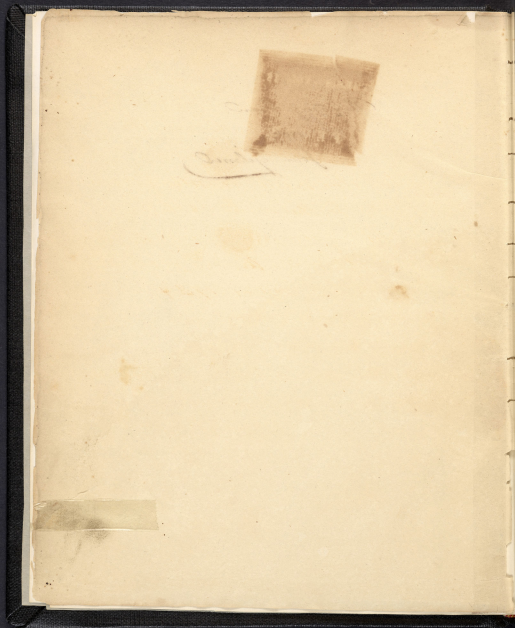


Presenting Friend

1806.

John Gelsmed



Aug. 1806

On The Remitting Power
As it appeared
In Albemarle County Virginia
In the year 1806
John Gilmer, was born in Albemarle
County Virg the 30th of April in
the year 1784





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The, Remitting, fever appeared in Albemarle county, Virginia, in the year 1845 about the first of July, and was preceded by a mild form of dysentery. The season was unusually dry, and warm, many water courses became perfectly dry, which had never been known to fail before, consequently, a great quantity of vegetable matter in a state of putrefaction, was now exposed to the action of the sun, some families were obliged to send several miles for water, and frequently used it in a very impure state. The wind blew almost uniformly from the south west. With these preliminary observations, I shall proceed, to the symptoms of the disease in question, on its first appearance, it

was of a mild form, but as the season
 advanced, and became colder, the disease
 put on a more inflammatory type. A
 dull heavy ~~pain~~ sensation pervaded
 the whole system, chilliness, in disposition
 - on to move, and rest for being in
 the room. Obtuse pain in the head, stiff-
 -ness with some degree of pain in the
 back of the neck, and a white tongue
 were the general characteristics of the
 forming state of this disease. In a
 few days the pain in the head,
 gave place to giddiness, which
 was so great in many cases, as to
 prevent the patient from walking
 or even sitting up, young persons when
 raised up would scream out as if
 affrighted the pain which every at
 first

more particularly, by confined to the neck
now extended down to the lumbar region
the tongue became more dry and ap-
peared a yellow colour. The pulse which
was not so particularly affected at
first, now became depressed, or quick and
tense. In many cases diarrhoea attended
from the commencement of the disease,
and if suffered to continue, never failed
to debilitate the patient extremely,
but there were other cases in which the
bowels were obstinately bound, nor cou-
ld this state be obviated but by the ex-
-hibition of the most powerful purga-
-tives, acute pain in the sides and stom-
-ach, with cough and sore throat, some-
-times attended, but these were by no means
constant symptoms.

As the disease advanced the patient became extremely weak, particularly in those cases where diarrhea had prevailed, the discharges now became more copious and if not checked, were fetid and acrid, followed by delirium, coma, subultus tendinum and death. In many cases where V. Section had been omitted in the early stage of the disease, the patient would be attacked with a most alarming discharge of blood from the intestines, when this occurred the pulse would be very fluctuating, at one time strong and tense, and in a few minutes sinking to a degree of debility, which rendered it imperceptible in the wrist. In most cases there was a considerable degree of tintinnus in the pulse just before death.

before the discharge of blood took place,
suppression of urine sometimes occurred.
the tongue was frequently in the last stages
of the disease, dry and of a red or black colour
revolved put with excretion, pain always,
attended convalescence.

Having mentioned the symptoms most com-
mon to this disease. I shall now give ~~the~~
general plan of ^{the} ~~the~~ method of ~~the~~
treatment which appeared to be most
successful. An emetic given before the
disease was completely formed, frequently
arrested its progress, but after its forma-
tion. Section regulated in frequency
and quantity by the state of the pulse
was always used with the happiest effects.
the blood when drawn and permitted to
stand constantly showed some sign of
inflammation

after the loss of blood provided the quantity taken had been regulated by the state of the system. the pulse became soft and free, and the strength of the patient was frequently increased. after proper depletion emetics were used with advantage, except in such cases as were attended with diarrhea, in these it was almost impossible to produce vomiting, particularly if Tartar Emetic was used, as it never failed to pass off by the bowels. Ricin was the most certain emetic in this disease. When costiveness prevailed if the pulse was active. after V. Sca a dose of Cal. h. p. & Jalapin was given it was found necessary to use purgation frequently. care being taken, that this operation was not excessive, which would

frequently be the case if not particularly
attended to, after the disease had conti-
nued for some time, purgatives of a
mild nature were used. When diarr-
-rhea attended after the exhibition of a
mild purgative a few drops of Liquid
Laud in spirit tea were generally found
sufficient to check the discharges. the Laud
was repeated whenever the diarrhoea
became copious, if moderate it was
permitted in most cases to continue. If
the head was much affected blisters
were found useful, after proper depletion.
When applied early in the disease
they never failed to render every
symptom more violent. in the
remission of fever tonics were
used. Columbo. Cold Chamomile &
Grop

tea was found to answer best. Tonics
were sometimes used during the remis-
sion, when it would be found necessa-
ry to deplet in the exacerbation
of fever in the evening of the same
day. Antimonials were sometimes
used with advantage after arte-
-rial action had been somewhat reduc-
-ed, but before this was accom-
-plished, nothing would produce
a determination to the surface.
discharges of blood only occurred in
those cases where the lancet had
been too sparingly used in the
early stages of the disease. When
this took place, N.G. was used
when indicated by the pulse -
mild laxatives, astringents and ther-
-tics

to the ~~adhes~~ were used with the hap-
-piest effects. Mercury was used by some
practitioners and supposed, to do great
mischiefs, when salivation was produced.

as mortification of the gums and caries
of the jaw bone sometimes took place.

I believe this effect occurred only in
those cases where mercury was used
too early in the disease and before
inflammatory action was sufficiently
-ly reduced. Chaulmup and fresh
air were indispensable requisites
in the cure of this disease. many
sick persons were not confined.

in the same room. small houses
or huts convenient to the houses of
patients, were found very useful
among negroes, where they might
be

carried in the day, during which
 time their houses were well aired.
 But few cases terminated fatally
 when the above remedies were
 used in proper time—

The disease was by some prac-
 titioners taken for Typhus fever
 and treated as such, which
 method as may readily be supposed
 was very unsuccessful. I have
 known this disease continue for eight
 weeks, and be attended with in-
 flammatory symptoms to the last
 and have seen patients bleed in
 in the eighth week with advan-
 tage—

In order to illustrate the nature
 of this disease more fully, I shall
 here

nearly mention the appearance of
the contents, of the abdomen Thorax
& cranium on dissection - a negro
man aged 22. died on the 45th
day of the disease - on opening the
abdomen, the small intestines were
found, inflamed, and adhering to
strongly to the peritoneum
mesenteric glands enlarged. Liver
natural. Gall bladder full of
green bile. Spleen enlarged Lungs
natural. except that the left was
attached to the pleura, which
was perhaps the consequence of
previous disease - on opening the
cranium the meninges were a
little inflamed and upon cutting
into the ventricles about three ounces
of clear water were discharged -

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